THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since its inception, benefits under the Scheme have been extended by the Government to mills in the private sector only.

New Scheme for Foreign Tourists

2422. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new scheme for foreign tourists under which they can avail of a single ticket for journey by Air India (AI), Indian Airlines (IA) and Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether holders of such tickets will get priority in reservations in Air India, Indian Airlines and Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Indian Railways have appointed Air India and Indian Airlines as their General Sales Agents for sale of Indrail Passes, Luxury Trains and other products overseas. The scheme does not envisage issue of a single ticket. However, Indian Railways will give priority to requests received from these carriers for reservation against tourist quota. The modalities for implementation of the scheme are being worked out.

Indian Airlines already has foreign tourist priority quota for tickets issued abroad.

Tourism Export Promotion Council

2423. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Tourism Export Promotion Council to boost forex earning from the travel trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to identify countries interested in working as partners to boost foreign direct investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of Tourism in Assam

2424. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism schemes proposed to be taken up during Ninth Plan for the development of tourism sector in Assam and scheme-wise allocations made, so far;

(b) whether two such schemes one in Majuli Island and another in Bordowa Satra were considered by his ministry;

(c) if so, the present status of implementation of these schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in finalising such schemes of primary importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The Ministry of Tourism identifies the projects on yearly basis in consultation with the State Govts. identifies projects for Central Financial Assistance. During the year 1997-98, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned 12 projects amounting to Rs. 288.88 lakhs to the Government of Assam.

(b) to (d) The Government of Assam had submitted a proposal for the preparation of a project report on a Heritage and Eco-Tourism Resort at Majuli during 1997-98. However, no funds could be sanctioned as the project details were incomplete. The Ministry of Tourism has asked the State Govt. to resubmit the project with all its details and has prioritised the Study Project for 1998-99. The State Govt. has not submitted any proposal for Bordowa Satra.